



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **RETIRED FLORIDA TRUCK DRIVER INDICTED FOR SEX TOURISM**

*Sex journals and logs of victims discovered in luggage*

DETROIT – A Florida man, who is accused of traveling to various foreign countries to engage in sex with minors, will be arraigned May 9 following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Karl Kaechele, 62, was indicted Thursday for allegedly engaging in sex tourism. He's accused of traveling to several Asian countries to knowingly engage in sexual acts with victims ranging between 7 to 15 years of age. Laws against sex tourism were strengthened following the passage of The Protect Act of 2003.

ICE began investigating the case after Kaechele arrived at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport from Manila April 26. Kaechele stated to officers that he had been out of the country for 90 days and had traveled to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.

An examination of Kaechele's possessions by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and ICE special agents revealed nine packets of photographs, which included images of nude Asian females. Also discovered were three large notebook journals containing details of sexual encounters with females, many under the age of 15.

ICE Tampa special agents also executed a federal search warrant May 4 at Kaechele's residence in St. Petersburg, Fla., for evidence of child pornography. They seized a computer, peripheral equipment, related media, photos and videos.

"Americans who travel abroad to prey on the children of other countries should clearly understand that their actions are not beyond the reach of U.S. law," said ICE Detroit Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz. "ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves. The victims of child sexual predators are at the top of that list." Moskowitz heads the ICE Office of Investigations for the states of Michigan and Ohio.

U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated, “The sexual exploitation of children in the United States, or any other country, is a heinous, violent act. My office will aggressively investigate and prosecute to the fullest extent of the federal law, anyone who engages in “sexual tourism” offenses.”

This investigation was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,500 individuals, including 136 in Michigan.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*